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**TITLE:** Accessing, Evaluating and Organizing HIV/AIDS Information and Resources on the Internet

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**ISSUE:** Health professionals face unique challenges in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and in staying up-to-date with resources and current information. The Internet contains excellent HIV/AIDS resources, including HIV prevention information and clinical and consultative support. The Internet can greatly enhance access to information for newly established providers, for services in rural communities and nontraditional settings, and for organizations targeting underserved populations. The challenge to many online searchers is how to evaluate a quality site. Many health professionals are not aware of how to begin an online resource collection or how to effectively search the Internet.

**SETTING:** Health professionals from organizations and institutions around the world.

**PROJECT:** The CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) is the U.S. national reference, referral and distribution service for information on HIV/AIDS, STDs and TB, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All of NPIN's services are designed to facilitate the sharing of information and resources among constituencies who work in international, national, state, and local settings.

**RESULTS:** This workshop will provide an orientation to HIV/AIDS, resources on the Internet that are of particular use to health and social service professionals. The instructors will demonstrate how to access various HIV/AIDS resources collected. This workshop will take one and a half hours to complete and is designed for novice users of the Internet. Practical explanations and terminology will be used. Resource packets will be provided.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** Previous participants have gained a better understanding of what the Internet is and how to navigate it. Participants have learned the criteria for evaluating a quality Web site and how to network with quality online resources. Emphasis has also been placed on organizing information and maintaining a virtual resource center using browser technology. Participants have left previous workshops with confidence and a commitment to use the Internet to better meet the needs of their clients.

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